UNITED
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S/1997/626
11 August 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 31 July 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

97-21489 (E) 110897 110897

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 31 July 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The European Union wishes to convey a message to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to the entire population of the country.

The message comes at a time when a new Federal President is taking up his post and as important elections are about to be held in Serbia and Montenegro.

The European Union would like to draw attention to its statement of 9 April 1996 on recognition by European Union member States of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. At the time of the Council's decision taken in Luxembourg on 29 April 1997 to grant autonomous trade preferences to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for 1997 the European Union made its position clear. On that occasion, it published a statement in which it expressed hope that the González report would be fully and quickly implemented.

The Yugoslav authorities have failed to take into consideration the package of recommendations made in that report, in particular, facilitation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) of dialogue between Government and opposition, further adjustments to the draft media law and genuine reform of the electoral and judicial systems.

Moreover, several recent developments in politics in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia give rise to serious concern. Recent legislation in Serbia is leading the country away from true democratization and is jeopardizing opportunities for meaningful dialogue between the country's different political movements. The international community cannot remain indifferent to this development, which is particularly serious with regard to electoral laws and the media. Tension in Kosovo has recently been heightened by judgements that run counter to equitable legal standards. One disturbing factor is the apparent indifference of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the signs directed towards them.

It is now essential to stress the risks inherent in a policy that is leading to a worsening of the political climate, a deterioration in the economic situation and heightened ethnic tension in Kosovo and the Sandzak.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia faces a clear choice between the road of democracy leading to economic recovery and its integration into the international community and the road of confrontation with all its negative economic and social effects on the people of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The European Union requests all political authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and particularly the new Federal President, Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, to demonstrate clearly willingness to take up the political and

economic challenges of the moment and to assume the responsibility that this implies.

Holding free democratic elections under genuine OSCE observation may be regarded as a step in that direction.

The European Union urges the Yugoslav authorities to keep to their commitments, to accept OSCE (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)) observation of the elections, including during the election campaign, and to guarantee freedom of expression and of information.

In view of the foregoing, the European Union exhorts all opposition political groupings to engage themselves fully during the period of the electoral campaign and to assume their political responsibilities.

Only functioning democratic institutions will be capable of healing the internal divisions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and securing stability in the country and the region as a whole.

The European Union places great emphasis on the central importance of respect for human rights and the rights of minorities. It stresses the importance of negotiation and calls for avoidance of the use of violence and recourse to force, especially in Kosovo.

The European Union adjures all the political forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to move clearly towards true integration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the international community.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must rebuild its economic activity. The international community is ready to contribute to that process, but expects the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to cooperate to create the conditions necessary for it to take place.

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and the Czech Republic align themselves with this statement.

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11 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

97-21495 (E) 110897 110897

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 11 August 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

In recent days, there have been clashes in Dushanbe and in several districts in the south of Tajikistan between independent armed groups. These have produced localized destruction and have resulted in casualties.

The energetic and decisive measures taken by the Government have put an end to these clashes, and the forces that took part in them have been neutralized. Most of the elements of the armed groups that took part in the conflict have been disarmed and the forces of order are looking for the remaining elements who are on the run. The situation in Dushanbe and throughout the country has stabilized and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has the situation well under control.

Governing circles in Tajikistan interpret these events as a desperate attempt to derail the peace process and to prevent the speedy conclusion of agreements dealing with an inter-Tajik settlement. Naturally, these attempts run counter to the hard-won right of the people of Tajikistan to live in peace and to see this series of conflicts which are suicidal for the country come to an end. There is no doubt that these attempts are doomed to fail.

As for the differences that exist with regard to the implementation of the peace agreements with the opposition, the leaders of Tajikistan remain willing to settle them by peaceful and political means.

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11 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to express support of my Government for scheduling in the agenda of the Security Council for this month an open discussion on the occasion of the closing of the multinational protection force operation in Albania. In this context, my Government concurs with the request of the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations for an open meeting of the Security Council.

This meeting would be a great opportunity for my Government to express its gratitude for the way in which the Security Council addressed this issue and towards the member States involved in the multinational protection force.

(Signed) Pellumb KULLA
Permanent Representative

97-21483 (E) 110897

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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S/1997/629
11 August 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 August 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the constant difficulties and obstacles being raised by the United States and the United Kingdom to the proper implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and the memorandum of understanding. In his letter, the Minister urges you to intervene with a view to ensuring the approval of all the contract applications placed on hold and the others that still await approval.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

97-21531 (E) 120897 120897

Annex

Letter dated 8 August 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

As we begin the second phase in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996 between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Government of Iraq on the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), I should like to express the hope that the procedures to be followed in implementing this phase will in practice stem from the provisions of the memorandum of understanding and from the declared humanitarian objective of the resolution. The new phase should thus be implemented expeditiously and within the six-month period laid down for the delivery of goods to Iraq under the second distribution plan. You have no doubt noted that, even after the submission of your report to the Security Council of 2 June 1997 (S/1997/419), two of the members of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990), namely the United States and the United Kingdom, are continuing to raise numerous difficulties and obstacles to the proper implementation of the provisions of the memorandum of understanding by impeding the approval of contract applications for the purchase of food, medicines and other basic humanitarian requirements. In doing so, these two countries adduce flimsy pretexts that are entirely at variance with the letter and spirit of the memorandum of understanding and of Security Council resolutions 986 (1995) and 1111 (1997).

While the two resolutions in question and the provisions of the memorandum of understanding have the goal of mitigating the adverse impact of the embargo imposed on Iraq, the actions taken by the United States and the United Kingdom in the 661 Committee with respect to contract applications are totally incompatible with this objective.

Although two months have elapsed since the first period for the implementation of the procurement and distribution plan expired, the secretariat of the 661 Committee still has 142 contract applications valued at some 87 million United States dollars that have been placed on hold. The Committee has thus far been unable to approve these applications because of the flimsy and illogical reasons the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom continue to advance. I can mention as examples of this: (a) a need for information concerning the end-user; (b) a need for detailed information concerning the specifications of the requested item; (c) a need for clarifications concerning point of entry; (d) the inclusion of free merchandise under contracts for pharmaceuticals; and (e) a need for information on modalities for the monitoring of items in Iraq.

The Committee secretariat also still has 60 contract applications, valued at some 18 million United States dollars, that it has yet to prepare for circulation to Committee members. The Americans have rejected 15 contracts valued at some 70 million United States dollars. The most recent case, contract No. 768 for the purchase from France of 100 ambulances, was rejected by the United States on the grounds that the quantities were excessive.

No sound logic can accept such a flimsy pretext, particularly when the international standards governing the utilization of ambulances require one ambulance for every 10,000 people and the total requested by Iraq under the first procurement and distribution plan is 200, meaning one ambulance for every 100,000 Iraqis. It should be noted that the number of 200 ambulances was determined in consultation with the office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Baghdad. Any fair-minded person who considers the very difficult health situation in Iraq, a situation confirmed by the Director-General of WHO in his recent report on a field visit to Iraq, can only reach one logical and realistic conclusion. It is that even if the international standards for the provision of ambulances were to be applied, that is to say one ambulance for every 10,000 people, that would not suffice to meet Iraq's real needs. So how can it be said that the quantities requested are excessive? Two hundred ambulances represent only 10 per cent of Iraq's real need.

The contract applications blocked by the United States include those numbered 411 and 482, which are for the importation of tyres and batteries for the trucks to be used to transport foodstuffs under the procurement and distribution plan.

One is entitled to ask whether the United States, which rejected the contract applications I have been citing merely by way of example, is capable of finding a substitute for ambulances as emergency transportation for patients or a substitute for tyres and batteries in the operation of trucks, so that Iraq may obtain such substitutes in order to meet the pressing humanitarian needs of its people.

In rejecting the aforesaid contract applications, the United States uses groundless pretexts and alleges that the vehicles and trucks in question may be used for other purposes. Such conduct on the part of the United States can only be characterized as indifference arising out of a sense of frustration and as lack of respect for the United Nations and, in particular, for WHO. We do not exaggerate when we say this, because the United States has also rejected a contract for the purchase of Vietnamese rice (contract No. 20), a contract for the purchase of Jordanian cooking oil (contract No. 24) and contracts for the purchase of detergent and soap from Jordan (contracts Nos. 25 and 26). Are these foodstuffs and cleaning materials also dual-use items? These obvious pretexts provide clear and irrefutable evidence of premeditated bad faith and of the exploitation of this humanitarian issue for political purposes that have become evident to all.

It is more than ever essential that the 661 Committee should implement the agreement reached with Iraq in good faith and that the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom should desist from conduct based on narrow political considerations that are incompatible with all humanitarian concepts and with the provisions of resolution 986 (1995) and the memorandum of understanding.

I hope that, in your capacity as sponsor of the memorandum of understanding, you will intervene with the 661 Committee so that decisions may be reached as quickly as possible on the 142 contract applications that are still on hold in the Committee, on the approval of all the other applications

that remain in the possession of the Committee's secretariat without any measures having thus far been taken in their regard, and on the approval of the contract applications that are being submitted by Iraq to replace those blocked by the United States without any real justification, so that all the sums that remain to Iraq may be spent. I also hope that you will once again remind the Security Council of the painful consequences that obstruction of the approval of contract applications may have for progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding and of the unwarranted delay thus caused to the distribution of humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi people.

I further hope that you will urge the 661 Committee to conduct a professional and objective review of the manner in which the first phase under the memorandum of understanding was implemented with a view to avoiding all of its negative aspects and those procedures that caused the delay and dilatoriness that were its mark and that all but emptied Security Council resolution 986 and the memorandum of understanding of their true content and turned them into something to be exploited for political purposes that bear no relation to any humanitarian objective.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 155 of the provisional agenda*
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 11 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 30 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1997/603) in reply to our letter requesting that the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon should be extended (S/1997/534), I should like to repeat some observations that I consider necessary in view of Israel's persistent flouting of the will of the international community, and its attempts to mislead and deceive public opinion.

1. The tense situation currently prevailing in southern Lebanon is a result of the Israeli occupation of part of that region. Were it not for that occupation, southern Lebanon would be peaceful and prosperous. In this context we must recall the brutal acts of aggression carried out on Lebanese territory by the Israelis on an almost daily basis, the bombardments by Israeli military aircraft, the use against civilians of proscribed weapons, the naval blockade of Lebanon's southern coast and the inhumane practices carried out against Lebanese citizens in the occupied area. This Mission has steadily supplied the Secretariat with periodic letters setting forth the dates and locations of such acts of aggression.

2. The occupying forces can in no way justify their military operations against Lebanon and the Lebanese people as self-defence. Acts of resistance are a natural response to the Israeli occupation of part of Lebanese territory; they are legitimate under the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and are intended to liberate national territory from foreign occupation.

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

3. The most appropriate way to restore peace and security to southern Lebanon is for Israel to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) which calls for Israel to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory. This solution enjoys international support.

4. If Israel genuinely desires peace, it must withdraw from Lebanese territory, respect Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized boundaries and refrain from any actions that violate that sovereignty or hinder the return of Lebanese Government authority over southern Lebanon.

5. Lebanon has, from the start, been bound by the principles informing the peace process and the 1991 Madrid conference. It has repeatedly called for the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). It has expressed its support for the resumption of negotiations in accordance with the principle of land for peace as part of a comprehensive and just resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and with the participation of all parties. However, the harsh policy pursued by the present Prime Minister of Israel since he came to power has led to the halting and freezing of negotiations and constitutes an impediment to further advancement of the peace process. The tense atmosphere currently prevailing in the region as a result of the Israeli Government's attitudes and its attempts to overturn everything that has been achieved by the peace process is the best indication as to who bears real responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the Middle East.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 155 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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11 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1110 (1997)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1110 (1997) of 28 May 1997. By that resolution the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) until 30 November 1997 and to start, as at 1 October 1997, taking into account the conditions prevailing at that time, a two-month phased reduction of the military component by 300 all ranks. In the same resolution, the Council requested that I keep it regularly informed about any relevant developments and review the composition, deployment, strength and mandate of UNPREDEP as outlined in my report of 12 May 1997 (S/1997/365 and Add.1), taking into consideration the situation prevailing at that time in the region, in particular in the context of elections in Albania, as well as to report to the Council by 15 August 1997.

II. COMPOSITION, DEPLOYMENT, STRENGTH AND MANDATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE

2. Since my last report to the Security Council on 12 May 1997 (S/1997/365 and Add.1), the composition, strength and mandate of UNPREDEP have remained unchanged. The mission continues to be headed by my Special Representative, Mr. Henryk J. Sokalski (Poland). The military component is headed by the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Bent Sohnemann (Denmark).

A. Military component

3. During the reporting period, some elements of the military component were redeployed in accordance with paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1105 (1997) of 9 April 1997 and paragraph 3 of resolution 1110 (1997). The number of observation posts along the western border of the mission area has increased. Currently, the Nordic Battalion mans eight posts on a 24-hour basis along the northern and western border and three temporary posts, also on a

24-hour basis, in the area of Lake Ohrid. The increase by three observation posts has effectively enlarged the area of responsibility of the Nordic Battalion, whose patrol line is now over-extended. The United States Battalion mans eight observation posts and patrols along a considerably smaller area of responsibility. Since the Nordic Battalion assumed responsibility for the three new observation posts, the United States Battalion has taken over the tasks of guarding the Headquarters and providing the main quick reaction force.

4. In addition to the community and border patrols conducted by the Force's civilian police and military observers, UNPREDEP military units also conduct patrols in the border areas. In the past three months, they conducted over 220 patrols per week and observed an average of some 153 patrols each week by the armed forces of Albania, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the host country. Observed illegal smuggling incidents decreased substantially during the period from early spring 1997.

5. In paragraph 4 of my report of 12 May, I drew to the Council's attention the fact that military units of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of the host country had increased the number of patrols in their respective territories up to the old administrative border of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Recently, both sides informed the Force Commander that, while they would continue to permit UNPREDEP to patrol on the basis of visible and key features of the terrain - including crossing the administrative border when topographical constraints made this a more convenient way of passing from one part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to another - they retained their sovereign right to patrol their respective territories up to the old administrative border. Neither side has expressed any concern as to a danger of armed clashes occurring between their patrols in the border areas.

6. Along the western border, United Nations soldiers have been exposed to frequent cross-border shooting from Albania, either by armed groups of illegal border-crossers or by other individuals. On a few occasions, UNPREDEP observation towers were deliberately shot at, resulting in one soldier being slightly injured. Active community patrolling by military observers has contributed to the easing of some tensions in the border area and the initiation of regular meetings between the mayor of Debar in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and his counterparts in several Albanian communities across the border has been particularly useful as a confidence-building measure. The situation along the border is gradually returning to normal.

B. Civilian component

7. The civilian component of UNPREDEP continues to play an important role in the implementation of the good offices mandate of my Special Representative. It maintains an active dialogue with the authorities and other political forces in the country in order to facilitate the mutual exchange of views and to encourage political and inter-ethnic communication and interaction. The political and humanitarian branch of the civilian component also maintains liaison with various segments of the public and the authorities in order to assess domestic and external developments that might threaten the country's stability.

8. In the past two years, with the support of several Governments and international organizations, and with the use of extrabudgetary resources, UNPREDEP has successfully advanced the good offices component of the operation. A number of major developmental projects on social integration and national capacity- and institution-building have been initiated and have led to a substantial inflow of international experience to the host country. These projects have played a significant role in promoting mutual confidence and good will across society.

9. In the absence of a United Nations resident coordinator, my Special Representative continues to coordinate all the United Nations activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He also ensures cooperation with the regional organizations monitoring developments in the area. Close collaborative efforts have been pursued between UNPREDEP and the Spillover Monitoring Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Several joint initiatives in good offices by my Special Representative and the Head of the OSCE Mission have been aimed at underscoring the determination of the international community further to strengthen peace and stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

10. The civilian police component of the mission represents an important asset to the operation. Conducting some 14 patrols a day, its monitoring of the border areas has provided a unique tool for liaison with the judicial and police authorities and with the population of the host country, including, in particular, the ethnic minorities. As a complement to the tasks of the civilian police, a special project on crime prevention and criminal justice, which includes a training programme for the police, has been designed by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and UNPREDEP, in cooperation with the host country's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

11. The small public information component of the mission has developed and implemented an active information programme to raise local and international awareness about the work of the first United Nations preventive deployment operation. In cooperation with the local media, it is vigorously promoting an objective image of the United Nations. Its daily services also include monitoring of media coverage of major developments on the local political scene.

12. UNPREDEP's administration has adapted to the responsibility of providing essential services to a fully independent mission. The administrative structure and staff have been modified to meet the requirements of a small mission.

III. OPERATIONAL COHERENCE, EFFICIENCY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS

13. An integrated approach by all the components of UNPREDEP to the tasks at hand has enhanced the mission's operational coherence and efficiency. Efforts continue to streamline mandate delivery and effect greater savings. A combination of professional skills in the Force has contributed considerably to high levels of coordination and proficiency.

14. Enhanced effectiveness in administration has been accomplished through the consolidation of numerous tasks. Some sections with related functions have been

merged to ensure cost-efficient and effective use of staff with similar responsibilities. Pooling of common skills has eliminated the underutilization of personnel and reduced the need for additional recruitment during absences on leave. Staff positions in certain areas of administrative servicing are likely to be reduced once the national contingents assume more responsibility for their equipment.

15. Greater efficiency has been achieved in the substantive areas of the operation by coordinating very closely the functions of the battalions, the military observers and the civilian police. All these elements schedule their operations so as to ensure optimal monitoring and reporting capability and community patrolling, both during the day and in the evenings.

IV. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

16. During the past three months, inter-ethnic relations within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia suffered a setback as a result of a controversy over the public display of flags of national minorities. On 4 June 1997, the Constitutional Court of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia decided that Albanian national flags should not be displayed in front of the town halls of Gostivar and Tetovo. The mayors of the two towns defied the ruling and gave no indication of their readiness to remove the flags when, on 8 July, the National Assembly adopted a new compromise law on the use of flags by the ethnic nationalities. On 9 July, the Government launched a massive law-enforcement operation in Gostivar to remove Albanian and Turkish flags hoisted in front of the municipal building. The municipality of Tetovo was also partly affected by a similar action. During clashes with the police, three demonstrators died in Gostivar and many were wounded in what appeared to be an excessive use of force by government special police forces. In the wake of the Gostivar events, a number of demonstrators were called by the police for "informative talks", a practice restricted by the new law on criminal procedures. Some of the demonstrators complained of brutal methods of interrogation. Amidst severe criticism of the police action by its ethnic Albanian coalition partner, the Government established a ministerial commission to investigate the events and recently presented its findings in a report to the National Assembly. The consideration of the report has been postponed until after the summer recess.

17. A few days before the events in Gostivar, a unification congress of two major ethnic Albanian opposition parties was held in an atmosphere of nationalist fervour. The congress called for parallel government structures, autonomous institutions, a pan-Albanian parliament and ethnic regionalization. The appearance of black-shirted paramilitary guards in Tetovo during the congress was a disquieting manifestation of ethnic extremism.

18. In its resolution 1110 (1997), the Security Council welcomed the significant progress made by the Governments of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in developing their mutual relations in many areas and reiterated its call on the two Governments to implement in full their Agreement of 8 April 1996 (see S/1996/291, appendix), in particular regarding the demarcation of their mutual border. During a visit to Belgrade in early July by the Prime Minister of the host country, agreements

were signed on cultural education, sports, scientific and technological cooperation and on the suspension of the visa regime between the two countries. Although some progress has been made, no complete agreement has yet been reached on the outstanding demarcation of the border. The Joint Border Commission continues to meet on a regular basis and to focus on resolving the disputed border areas it had previously identified, but the results of its work have thus far fallen short of the expectations and the public statements of intent of the two parties in this regard.

19. While my Special Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, actively pursues his efforts to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement in the name-related dispute, cooperation between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece in different fields has been steadily growing.

V. OBSERVATIONS

20. As the Council will recall, in my letter of 3 April 1997 to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/276), I requested a suspension in the reduction of the UNPREDEP military component decided by the Council in its resolution 1082 (1996) of 27 November 1996 in view of the situation in Albania. I noted that, while there appeared to be no imminent danger of the problems in Albania spilling over to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the crisis in that country was causing great anxiety to the host Government. In my report to the Council of 12 May 1997, I reported that uncertainty still prevailed in Albania and that the lack of a perceptible and early change in the situation in that country could lead to another explosion of internal violence, which might have a negative impact on neighbouring countries. Since my last report, and despite some difficulties, parliamentary elections were held in Albania from 29 June to 6 July. In its final report on the elections, OSCE noted that the results of these elections should be the foundation for a strong, democratic system in Albania. OSCE further recalled that the international community expects a major effort towards national reconciliation in Albania after the elections. As the presence of the multinational force is ending, I welcome the international community's commitment to continue to support the efforts of Albania to normalize its internal security situation and to revive and reconstruct its economic and social life.

21. The underlying justification for the successive extensions of the mandate of UNPREDEP prior to the crisis in Albania has been to prevent conflicts elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia from spilling over or threatening the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is evident that the situation in the country has been and still is intimately linked to the overall situation in the region, in particular at its borders. However, the host Government's relations with its neighbours have continued to strengthen, as have its relations with other members of the international community. In addition, the country's active participation in a wide-range of international organizations and programmes, including the Partnership for Peace programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) PHARE programme, are further signs of its enhanced international standing and capability. These are all welcome and positive developments that promise to reinforce the maintenance of calm in the country.

22. Internally, however, economic and social problems continue to pose a significant threat to the country's integration and long-term stability and further exacerbate inter-ethnic tensions. These internal problems give rise to the question of whether the current mandate of UNPREDEP is relevant to the present situation and, as my predecessor has stated, whether it can be implemented with fewer resources. Taking into account the new developments, it seems advisable to pursue the implementation of the Council's decision to start, as at 1 October 1997, a two-month phased reduction of the military component of UNPREDEP by 300 all ranks, bearing in mind the conditions prevailing over that time in the region. In the meantime, I have requested my Special Representative and the Force Commander to continue to explore the most practical options for flexible redeployment of the Force in the remaining months of the mandate taking into consideration the situation in the region and the mandate of the Force.

23. As the international community's involvement in the region will be necessary for some time to come, and given the request by the authorities of the host country to maintain an international presence, I have instructed my staff to begin intensive consultations immediately with the host Government, other international organizations and interested Member States on the type of international presence that would be most appropriate for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia after 1 December 1997. The results of these consultations will be reflected in my report preceding the termination of the current mandate of UNPREDEP on 30 November 1997.

24. In concluding this report, I wish to express my gratitude to the Governments who have made their military and police personnel available to UNPREDEP for their contribution to the success of the mission. I also wish to pay tribute to my Special Representative, Mr. Henryk Sokalski, and to the Force Commander, Brigadier-General Bent Sohnemann, as well as to all the personnel under their command, for their dedication and perseverance in carrying out the tasks entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Annex

Composition and strength of the military and civilian police elements of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force as at 7 August 1997

	Military			
Nationality	Operational	Headquarters	Military observers	Civilian police
Argentina	-	-	1	-
Bangladesh	-	-	2	-
Belgium	-	-	1	-
Brazil	-	-	2	-
Canada	-	-	1	-
Czech Republic	-	-	1	-
Denmark	38	9	1	-
Egypt	-	-	1	-
Finland	350	13	1	6
Ghana	-	-	1	-
Indonesia	50	1	2	-
Ireland	-	-	3	-
Jordan	-	-	2	2
Kenya	-	-	2	-
Nepal	-	-	1	-
New Zealand	-	-	1	-
Nigeria	-	-	1	4
Norway	38	5	2	-
Pakistan	-	-	2	-
Poland	-	-	2	-
Portugal	-	-	1	-
Russian Federation	-	-	2	2
Sweden	32	9	1	-
Switzerland	-	-	1	4
Turkey	-	-	-	4
Ukraine	-	-	1	2
United States of America	487	11	-	-
Total	995	48	36	24

UNITED NATIONS

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S/1997/632
12 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 11 August 1997, which I have received from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (see annex). Attached to the letter is the eleventh and final biweekly report on the multinational protection force for Albania requested by the Security Council in its resolutions 1101 (1997) of 28 March and 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997.

I should appreciate your bringing the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

Letter dated 11 August 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the eleventh and final report on the multinational protection force for Albania (see appendix). The report is submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997, in which the Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide reports, at least every two weeks, through the Secretary-General, to the Council. The tenth such report was conveyed to you on 30 July 1997 (see S/1997/601).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and the eleventh report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paolo CASARDI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Appendix

Eleventh and final report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the offer made by certain Member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance.

2. On 19 June 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1114 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the readiness of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time. In paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Council welcomed the intention of the countries contributing to the force to continue to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance. It also took note of all the elements contained in the sixth report on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania (see S/1997/460), concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and decided that the operation would be limited to a period of 45 days from 28 June 1997.

3. In both resolutions, the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary-General, at least every two weeks. The first 10 reports on the operation of the force were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May, 6, 13 and 26 June and 2, 16 and 30 July 1997.

4. This is the eleventh and last report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania and is submitted to the Council at the conclusion of the operation for a final assessment of the situation.

II. MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE

A. Political guidance

5. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the 11 troop-contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, followed the overall situation on the ground and the full compliance of the activities of the Force with the Security Council mandate. It had held meetings on 4, 9, 14, 23

and 30 April, 6, 13, 14 and 22 May, 4, 10, 20, 25 and 29 June and 2, 15, 23 and 30 July.

6. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the meetings of the Steering Committee as observers, as appropriate: the United Nations and its related agencies, the OSCE, the European Union (EU), the Western European Union (WEU) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

B. Cooperation with Albanian authorities and with international organizations

7. Albanian representatives attended several meetings of the Steering Committee when appropriate and provided information on developments in the political situation in Albania.

8. The force facilitated the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and helped create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance, in accordance with the mandate defined in resolutions 1101 (1997) and 1114 (1997).

9. The force has helped to create a secure environment during the electoral process, in particular for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe missions, in the framework of the Security Council mandate.

10. Two international meetings on Albania were convened at Rome, on 26 May and 31 July 1997, under the chairmanship of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lambarto Dini. All the troop-contributing countries and Finland, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America attended the meetings. The following international organizations were also present: the United Nations and its related agencies, EU, OSCE, the Council of Europe, WEU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and ICRC. Albania participated in the meetings at a political level.

C. Force deployment

11. The multinational protection force was formed through the contributions of 11 countries, with Italy as the leading nation. During the electoral process the force reached its maximum deployment, with the following national units present in Albania:

Country	Number and type of unit (total strength)
Austria	1 company (110)
Belgium	1 medical unit (14)
Denmark	1 company (56)
France	1 navy infantry regiment (938)
Greece	1 infantry regiment (797)
Italy	1 infantry regiment 1 para regiment 1 logistic regiment 2 mechanized infantry regiments 2 aviation battalions 1 assault para regiment 1 signal regiment 1 military police regiment 1 navy infantry battalion 1 field hospital (3,778)
Portugal	1 C-130 aircraft and crew
Romania	1 mixed infantry battalion (398)
Slovenia	1 medical unit (24)
Spain	1 infantry battalion (342)
Turkey	1 navy infantry regiment (758)

A total of 7,215 units were deployed. The withdrawal of the force was completed on 11 August.

12. In order to fulfil its mandate, the multinational protection force carried out 1,598 missions, covering a total of 2,735,764 kilometres. The following activities were performed: 1,397 daily escorts, 65 route security missions, 27 dedicated escorts for long humanitarian missions, 151 reconnaissance missions and 37 sanitary missions. During the political elections the multinational protection force provided security to 238 OSCE teams, covering a total of 12,000 kilometres. Within the security framework provided by the force, the following humanitarian aid was distributed to 73 different locations: 5,168.3 tons of food, 176 tons of seed, 339 tons of medicines, 63 tons of clothes, 10 tons of building materials, 4 tons of school supplies and various vehicles and machinery for rubbish collection and water purification. In order to provide the necessary logistic support to the operation, 59 sea-lift missions were performed, covering 3,193 nautical miles, with 3,722 navigation hours; 943 air-lift sorties were performed with 1,311 flying hours.

III. CONCLUSIONS

13. Operation Alba has been a good example of how a political and military operation of international stabilization can be undertaken with responsibility and solidarity. What has been in place in Albania for the last four and a half months was not in fact a traditional peacekeeping or a peacemaking operation but rather one of complex nature, involving assistance from the international community within a multinational security framework provided by the multinational protection force and specifically geared to protect such assistance. There is no doubt that without security, assistance would not have been productive or even possible. The presence of the multinational protection force affectively blocked the risk of Albania sliding towards anarchy or even internal political conflict and allowed the various international organizations and individual States willing to provide practical help to Albania to organize assistance in a secure environment. Thus a notable improvement in the situation in the country was brought about in a short period of time, restoring confidence in national prospects.

14. The safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance was possible from the beginning of the deployment of the force and throughout the operation. Adequate and acceptable elections - as described in the final report of OSCE on the parliamentary elections in Albania - were made possible, not only thanks to the security framework provided by the force but also through the logistic assistance it gave to OSCE.

15. The force has been temporary and limited: during the electoral process its strength was increased for the specific purpose of providing security for the OSCE monitoring teams and parliamentary observers.

16. The operation was affected by strict time constraints, mainly because of its very rapid activation. Nevertheless, Operation Alba was successful thanks to the efforts of the multinational contingents deployed as well as to the professionalism of its commanders. The force achieved its goals also thanks to the ability of the multinational command to implement its mandate through harmonious and consistent use of the various assets and capabilities of the units provided by the 11 contributing countries.

17. For the purpose of providing political guidance to the multinational protection force, a Steering Committee was established with Italy as Chairman and France Vice-Chairman. The Steering Committee drafted its own decision-making and procedural rules, which proved to be effective. In addition to giving political guidance to the force, it reported regularly to the Security Council on the progress of the operation and was a useful forum for consultation on the international effort for Albania. The Steering Committee operated by consensus. This mechanism proved to be a political asset, since all countries shared responsibility for the Committee's decisions, reinforcing cohesion and solidarity.

18. At one point, the Steering Committee recommended that the mandate to the force provided by resolution 1104 (1997) be extended by the Security Council until the completion of the electoral process. Since the beginning of the operation the Steering Committee identified security priorities as areas of

possible international action. At the end of the operation, on the basis also of the experience of the force, the Steering Committee suggested further possible initiatives in support of the Government of Albania in the field of security to take place after the departure of the force.

19. The Secretariat of the Steering Committee remained active for the duration of the operation, keeping in constant contact with the Command of the force through the operational headquarters established in Rome. It provided information as appropriate to participating countries and international organizations involved.

20. All members shared the understanding that consultations at the policy level should be as intense as possible, with particular emphasis on analysis and information-sharing, in a spirit of full transparency. Great attention was given to facilitating coordination between the multinational protection force and the various international organizations involved. In this respect the Steering Committee dedicated a significant part of its meetings to interacting with representatives of international organizations who made known to the force, through the Committee, their requirements and provided relevant information. In this framework, dialogue with OSCE, the EU Presidency and Commission, WEU, the World Food Programme (WFP) and ICRC was particularly intense. At the local level a special coordination unit was established in Tirana.

21. Cooperation with the Albanian authorities was assured, as appropriate, through constant contact both at the political and operational levels. The participation of Albanian representatives in the Steering Committee meetings allowed an exchange of useful information, in a spirit of cooperation and trust. It also allowed prompt and resolute action whenever necessary.

22. As a result of Operation Alba, it is hoped that a dramatic page of Albanian history has now been turned. A new phase must start without delay, focusing on the rehabilitation of state institutions and the return of the country to an orderly social, political and economic condition, within a restored climate of confidence on the part of the Albanian people in their own future with the active support of the international community. The international conference held at Rome on 31 July 1997 was a milestone in this process in preparation for a ministerial conference and a donors' conference in the autumn.

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LETTER DATED 8 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I refer to my letter of 1 August 1997 (S/1997/617) in which I informed you of my decision to appoint two members of the three-man investigative team to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I am pleased to inform you, and through you the members of the Security Council, that I have decided to appoint Mr. Reed Brody (United States of America) as the third member of the team.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 8 August 1997 (S/1997/633) concerning your decision to appoint Mr. Reed Brody (United States of America) as the third member of the investigative team to investigate alleged grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo committed since 1 March 1993 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They take note of the decision contained in your letter.

(Signed) John WESTON
President of the Security Council

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